

THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 8

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 24th, 1891.

We are glad to say that the Brazilian constitution was finally voted last evening by the Constituent Assembly and will be formally signed and promulgated to-day. Just one hundred days have elapsed since the opening of this Assembly—a period certainly more than sufficient when it is considered that the draft of the constitution had already been prepared for their simple acceptance. Should the instrument adopted prove efficient, no one will complain of the time spent, for the main object is a stable and workable form of government under which the people can enjoy a full measure of personal liberty and be permitted to develop their industries. It is too early yet for an opinion on the constitution adopted, nor is it quite certain that the dominant elements of the country will give it a fair opportunity to show its real worth. If good wishes can avail, however, it will be everything that conscientious republicans can wish, and will contribute much toward the development of free institutions, public order and national progress.

The sugar figures published by the *Jornal do Commercio* on Sunday last should be widely read and thoughtfully studied, for they indicate an opening for Brazilian industry whose value to the country no one can compute. In this statement we assume that the sugar industry of Brazil is capable of enormous development, and that under the stimulus of free entry to the markets of the United States the sugar planters will spare no effort to promote that development. According to the *Jornal's* figures the importation of foreign sugar into the four principal Atlantic ports last year amounted to 1,183,316 tons, of which 479,589 were from Cuba, 289,214 from Europe, 198,516 from the British West Indies and Demerara, 40,768 from Trinidad and only 35,440 from Brazil. It appears, however, that this is the smallest quantity received from Brazil in many years, owing to the small crop produced. In 1884 the imports from Brazil aggregated 142,348 tons, while the average for the last ten years has been 100,801 tons. In view of the policy adopted by the United States to use its markets for sugar, coffee, tea and hides as a means for obtaining reciprocal entry for American products into the countries producing them, and in view of the probable difficulties to be encountered in obtaining these reciprocal favors from the Spanish and English possessions in the West Indies, it is evident that Brazil has an opening for developing her sugar industry which no nation has ever yet possessed. With the motives of the American government, Brazil has nothing to do. Whether it is to stir up trouble in Cuba, or to force these countries to open their markets to American products, does not concern Brazil. The main point is that the largest sugar market in the world is at once thrown open to Brazilian sugar, and that this market is large enough to take all this country can produce. Granting that the same favors are held out to others, and that some or all of them will eventually accept—in the meantime Brazil ought to develop the industry to such an extent that she need fear no one in a fair, open market. The question is, will she seize the opportunity, or throw it away and leave her sugar industry to live on state aid as is the case at present?

The situation occasioned by the strikes among laborers is daily becoming more complicated and critical. In a sense it is even becoming perilous for the hardships imposed upon the poorer classes by the largely increased costs of living, are producing a feeling of exasperation which may at any moment lead to violence. Week before last we had a strike among the coffee porters, which was promptly satisfied by an increase of wages. The stevedore laborers then struck to have their wages increased from rates ranging from 35 to 45 per day, to 45 and 55. The stevedores agreed to this, or to a general increase of 15 on old rates, but the laborers then demanded a further increase to 55 and 65 for day and night work, without any discrimination between laborers, and without any fractions of days, which was resisted by the employing stevedores and steamship agencies. Every effort to effect an arrangement has thus far failed, and the result has been an almost total suspension of the shipping business during the past week. The prejudices can not fail to be heavy, for some steamers have been delayed nearly a week already, and it cannot even now be said when they will be able to clear. In the discharge of cargoes some progress has been made by the employment of the ships' crews, but even here many expensive delays have occurred. While we have the fullest sympathy for the cause of the laboring classes, who find their former earnings totally inadequate to meet the increased costs of food, shelter and clothes, we can not help feeling that in this case they have acted unwisely. The first increase should have been accepted and tried; if then it were found that the pay is insufficient, a just reason would exist for asking another increase. Failing to do this, the strikers have lost much of the sympathy which was extended to them on their first demand. In demanding uniform rates for good, bad and indifferent laborers, they have made another grave mistake, for no employer can well pay a poor workman the same wages given to a skilled workman. In this demand the strikers are badly advised.

Another strike of perhaps greater significance and of much larger proportions, was developed among the subordinate employes of the Central railway on the morning of the 22nd. All the station, shop, train and track laborers refused to go to work, and the result has been a total cessation of traffic for the last two days. In this case, insufficient wages form only one of the causes of the strike; the laborers are complaining of harsh regulations, unjust fines, and contemptuous treatment from the acting director. From all accounts it would appear that their complaints are in great part just and reasonable. A great majority of these laborers are receiving only 1500 a day, on which it is impossible to live under existing conditions. Add to this the influence of the present speculations in stocks, in which not a few of their more venturesome companions have made considerable sums of money, and we have ample cause for the discontent. Although the minister of agriculture, backed by the police and military, took vigorous steps on Saturday to control and repress the strike, it still continues, and is daily gaining strength. Fortunately the strikers have thus far committed no acts of violence beyond removing certain parts of locomotives and switches to prevent the running of trains, but it can not be said that this peaceful state of affairs will long continue. The authorities are trying to compel the men to return to work before considering their complaints, but this will only serve to intensify the bad feeling. In view of the circumstance that laborers in the custom-house and port and in many of the industries of the city, are demanding increased wages, it will be necessary to proceed with great circumspection to avoid a general strike. As the provisional government, and particularly that paladin of learning and patriotism, Ruy Barbosa, are to blame for this situation, it is certainly within reason to ask their immediate and careful attention to the solution of the crisis.

The action of the government in revoking articles 11 and 12 in its recent decree against stock gambling, can hardly be considered a good sign for the future. We are certainly not apologists for the measure, nor do we believe in the expediency of imposing taxes and restrictions on such operations, however good the purpose, which are contrary to sound administrative principles and

harmful to legitimate interests. But, at the same time, we can not conjure up the slightest feeling of admiration for a minister who withdraws from a well-intentioned, though mistaken position, at the demand of a horde of rapacious speculators. As for the action of the Associação Commercial, it has very little value. A body which can stand by and see legitimate commercial interests ruined without a word, and then rush in to protect the most insensate and dangerous mania of speculation that has ever visited this country, can hardly be credited with sound judgment. It is undoubtedly true that the forced suspension of these stock operations would bring a crisis upon us, but can it be said that the recall of the measure will be anything more than a postponement of that evil day? Can anyone say, seriously, that the minister has saved us from a great peril? And is there one single man of good judgment and business experience in this city who will undertake to say, over his own signature, that this impending crisis can be averted? The organization of fantastic companies, with equally fantastic aggregates of capital, merely for the sake of providing the market with bits of paper to buy and sell at fantastic premiums, is not business nor prosperity. It is the wildest of follies, the emptiest of bubbles. Still worse than all this, it is nothing better than swindling, for it is foisting illusory schemes upon the public with no other object in the world than to win money from the ignorant and incautious. And this is the "interest" which the Associação Commercial hastens to defend and the government humbly undertakes to protect!

POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN MATTO GROSSO.

The following extract from a letter recently received from Cuyabá, Matto Grosso, shows something of the situation in that state, as it also shows how slight a chance there is for free popular government with a people who use the most arbitrary measures to carry elections and crush opposition. It is to be believed that the central government knows all about these abuses of authority, and is therefore not entirely without blame for a proceeding quite as bad as those practised by the Paraguayan dictator Lopez.

CUYABÁ, MATTO GROSSO,

12th January, 1891.

"We are very disappointed that no new governor has arrived with this mail. It appears that Dr. Martinho has quarrelled with Deodoro, on account of the latter not having fulfilled his promise, 'on his word of honor,' to dismiss the man here who has been, and is still, doing all the mischief he can. Immediately after the last mail left, in fact the same night, Martinho, with many others, left off rockets; I suppose to show the satisfaction at the present governor's dismissal—at least, so it was said. About 10 p.m. Martinho's house was surrounded by soldiers, and in the morning he was informed by the chief of police that he was a prisoner, and was taken on board a gunboat here. There were four other arrests, these prisoners were taken to the barracks. All communication with their families was forbidden, but it seems Martinho managed to pass and receive several letters. Various versions of the reason for the arrests were given; the governor himself making a statement—false from beginning to end—in which he tried to make out that the firing of a few rockets was a signal for a rising, whereas not a day passes in this town without rockets being let off. He is always surrounded by soldiers, and on any pretext they are called out to protect the palace. Four days after, two of the other prisoners were put on board the gunboat with Martinho, and the others liberated. Nothing was heard of the former for some days, but it is now known that they are on board another vessel at Curitiba, but are deprived of pens, ink and paper. All the town knows perfectly well that the reason for all this was to get Martinho out of the way until after the elections, as he is the chief of the opposite party. The governor actually sent soldiers to force people to come and vote for him, threatening them with prison if they did not comply with his wishes. Everybody is afraid to say a word, and as all the newspapers are prohibited, except those of the government, there are no means of contradicting the false statements made by the governor. Every day there are fresh arrests. Two friends of Martinho, the day after his arrest, left the town in a small steamer in order to send telegrams from Asunción to Rio. They were pursued, but fortunately not overtaken. . . . Martinho's wife was confined on Christmas day. She is not well yet, and no wonder with all this anxiety upon her. . . . The mail goes out to-morrow early, leaving us only a day and a half for our letters. Last month he (the governor) kept the steamer here five days, now he is perhaps afraid of our writing too much. I think he would like to be another Lopez if it were possible. 'Talk of a republic! it is worse than slavery!'

From the Diario Oficial, February 21st.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Opinions being manifested that the decree of the 14th inst. is applicable to already organized joint-stock companies, it is necessary to point out that the law has no retroactive effect, and that, therefore, the said decree is only applicable to companies which may be formed from its date forward.

DECRETE NO. 106 OF FEBRUARY 20TH, 1891.

MARSHAL MANOEL DEODORO DA FONSECA, chief of the provisional government constituted by the army and navy, in the name of the nation;

The reasons exhibited in the memorial of the Commercial Association, by the directories of various banks and by the Board of Brokers of this city, relative to the present crisis on the Exchange, which the representatives submit the urgent necessity of causing this crisis to cease created by the anomaly of the transactions of sales of shares of joint-stock companies on time, being considered;

Considering that this anomaly, perfectly manifest by the application of the dispositions contained in Arts. 11 and 12 of the decree of February 14th of the current year, demands more efficacious provisions to restore such transactions to regular conditions, by relating them to the list employment of the right of property;

Considering that such provisions, which should accord with the dispositions contained in the first articles of the said decree, demand a careful examination, which will be instituted, for the exact understanding of the evil and of the means of correcting this, without, however, wounding the principles of the liberty of trade;

Resolves to revoke the above mentioned Arts. 11 and 12 of the decree of the 14th of the present month.

Assembly Room of the Provisional Government of the Republic of the United States of Brazil, February 20th, 1891, third of the Republic.

Manoel Deodoro da Fonseca,
Tratado de Alencar Araujo.

From the above decree it appears that the government has not abandoned entirely the idea of repressive measures. This determination is to be applauded, for it is only too evident that evilly disposed persons are determined to prostitute the credit of Brazil to their own selfish ends, at this time, by the organization of ridiculous banks and companies with perfectly absurd capitals.—Eds. News.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—Saturday's gold quotations were 352 in Buenos Aires and 119.50 in Montevideo.

—The Buenos Aires municipal budget for 1890 (sic) recently sanctioned fixes the revenue at \$8,971,506, and the expenditures at \$5,674,170.

—The official value of wool in Argentina for the assessment of the export duty has been fixed at \$3.60 equal to 10 kilos, which, at the rate of 325 is equal to \$11.70 m/n, while the average price of wool is only \$5.50.

—A telegram on the 21st announces that Buenos Aires had been officially placed under martial law. It is certainly a very serious step to take unless the city is in a state of incipient revolution. The press has protested against the measure and a censorship is spoken of.

—Apparently to forestall a military revolt, a large number of Argentine officers were ordered to frontier posts early last week. A telegram of the 19th says that 40 of them refused to go and were at once expropriated. Subsequent telegrams state that several had gone over into Uruguay.

—A manifesto was issued by the military officers at Buenos Aires on the 20th, defending their opposition to the July revolution and declaring themselves loyal to the government, to morality and discipline. Even the most contentious among them are accustomed to figure as a defender of order and discipline.

—How to economize is beautifully illustrated in Uruguay under the new factory tax law by the appointment of two inspectors and two fiscal agents in the department of Minas at an expense of \$300 a month to collect one \$20 per annum tax. In Durazno one inspector and three agents were appointed at an expense of \$260 a month, although there is not a single factory in the department subject to taxation.

—An attempt was made to shoot General Roca in Buenos Aires on the evening of the 19th by a boy 15 years of age named Thomaz Zambrine. The bullet passed through the carriage seat and slightly lacerated the General. It is reported that some 20 arrests have been made, besides that of Zambrine, and that a conspiracy exists for the assassination of Pellegrini and Lavalle. Grave disorders are feared. A telegram of the 20th says that the government has resolved to proclaim martial law.

—For years a large body of men have been living in the community, without adding anything to material or productive resources. The sooner they are called to account the less will be the losses in the final liquidation. They stand in the way of those who are earning their own living by honest industry or in legitimate trade. The man who stakes his money nightly in a gambling saloon, or daily in betting upon prices on 'Change, is earning nothing, and it is no charity to keep him in lands.—Rienos Aires Herald.

—Now that the fuss about General Paunero is over, we trust we may be pardoned if we ask who he was and what he did. We are lamentably ignorant on the subject, and although our contemporaries have recently filled many columns concerning the doings of the committees, and one has condescended to give us any definite information concerning him.—Montevideo Times, February 6th. When you get the information, colleague, kindly let us know also. There were columns of complimentary things written up here on the subject, but they were all devoid of information concerning the life and deeds of the illustrious dead.—Eds. News.

—The British minister to Paraguay reports to the Foreign Office as follows in regard to that little-known country:

"The railway in the interior has been opened for twenty years to the extent of 40 miles. It is now open to Villa Rica, a distance of 100 miles, and already the rolling stock is quite insufficient for the traffic; but the government has now increased its guarantee, and it is hoped that the company will second their local manager in his efforts to put it in efficient working order, 'when it ought to be one of the best paying concerns in South America.' The line will eventually connect Asunción, the capital, with Encarnación, or some other port on the River Paraná. Beyond Villa Rica a further 75 miles will be opened for traffic in a few months, and the concession for another 75 miles is expected to be granted by the next Congress and finished by the end of 1892. At present net direct imports from Paraguay vary from £10,000 to £15,000 annually. The materials for the railway must be brought either in the United States or Belgium, unless they are reckoned among the goods landed from Great Britain at Montevideo or Buenos Aires. It is also proposed to construct another line from Villa Rica to Santos, on the São Paulo system in Brazil. The cattle are of the usual Brazilian breed, and do not fatten in our sense of the word, but some owners of property have begun to import British stock, as the grasses, they say, are excellent for fattening purposes. This, by the way, affords a proof that we do export goods and cattle indirectly to Paraguay, although such exports do not find their way into the Board of Trade returns. The paper currency is depreciated, but not nearly so large an extent as that of the Argentine Republic."

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

February 12.—The vote on the amendments to the constitution in 2nd discussion was divided. A proposal to strike out the article securing a pension to the ex-Emperor was rejected by a vote of 92 to 85. An amendment, presented by Deputy Bernardino de Campos, confirming the appointments made by the ex-minister of justice in the organization of the federal judiciary, was rejected. An amendment of the same deputy confirming all appointments dependent on the senate was also rejected. The amendment of Deputy Martinho Prado annulling grants of land and guarantees of interest was rejected, as was also an amendment of Deputy Francisco Veiga annulling all grants increasing the expenditure and diminishing the revenue of the country. Among the congressmen who voted against the amendments of Deputy Martinho Prado were several who had signed them conjointly with their author. The vote was 102 to 80. A provision for purchasing the house in which Gen. Benjamin Constant lived, was adopted. The use of this house will be given to his widow during her life, and will afterwards revert to the government. The president declared that the amendments adopted in 2nd discussion would be printed on the following day in the official paper and that on Monday the 3rd discussion would begin. Deputy Sampiao Ferraz, having risen to speak on the treaty between Brazil and the United States, declared that he had hitherto refrained from speaking and even contemplated resigning his seat in congress because there had been nothing in the body a man who had conspired against the republic and who had escaped punishment only through the momentary sentimentality of the military tribunal by which he had been tried. A stormy discussion ensued, and Deputy Sampiao Ferraz, in answer to a remark, said that he felt no hatred towards Deputy Henrique de Carvalho whom he would not honor so much as to hate. The uproar continuing, the president suspended the sitting. The house being reopened, Deputy Henrique de Carvalho concluded the speech he had commenced in answer to Deputy Sampiao Ferraz. He was followed by Senator Laper, who spoke in defense of the treaty with the United States, presenting figures to show the benefit which Brazil will derive from that treaty.

February 16.—Deputy F. Baidar asked for the reasons that induced the government to suspend work on the extension of the Ono Preto and Itapura railway. He availed himself of the occasion to say that, speaking for himself individually, as a fervent catholic, he does not approve of the regulations requiring soldiers to salute religious symbols. His resolution asking for information on the subject of the above mentioned road was rejected by a vote of 70 to 66. Deputy Livino Prado spoke against the constitutional provision for the collection by the general government of 15 per cent. additional duties for the state treasuries. He presented a resolution declaring that provision absurd and authorizing the acceptance of amendments altering it. Deputy Cesar Zuma moved to expunge from the journal of the house the scene between himself and Deputy Senha on the 12th. Senator Quintino Bocayuva corrected a statement in a speech on the 15th by Deputy João Siqueira who declared that the retiring ministers had asked Barão de Lucena to take office. A written disclaimer to the same effect was signed and placed on record by ex-ministers Campos Salles, Glycerio, Ray Barbosa, Wambertoli and Floriano Peixoto. Deputy Eriberto Freire spoke on the question of boundaries between the states. He thinks the question should be settled by congress. Deputy Bernardino de Campos spoke against the constitutional amendments relating to naturalization, coast trade and additional duties of 15 per cent. Deputy Serzedello attacked the recent acts of the government which, he says, are condemned by public opinion. He thinks the provision for the collection of 15 per cent. additional duties should be so modified as to be made optional for the states. Deputy Leopoldo Balduino spoke against the amendment to Art. 33, adopted in the 2nd discussion, empowering congress to legislate on civil, commercial and criminal law and judicial procedure. To show the criminal effects of centralization, he cites the recent decree of the minister of finance, who, to check gambling in shares in this city, has legislated in a manner extremely detrimental in the rest of the country. Deputy Garcia Pires spoke in favor of the treaty with the United States. He thinks the question should be postponed until the opponents of the treaty are sufficiently calm to discuss the subject properly.

February 17.—Senator Quintino Bocayuva stated that the boundary treaty with the Argentine republic is subject to the ratification of congress, and that it had been agreed among the members of the government to which he belonged, that all treaties should have a clause to the same effect. He and the other ex-ministers are anxious that the treaty should be laid before congress with as little delay as possible. Deputy Lopes Trovão said that he does not consider Gen. Deodoro in all respects a suitable candidate for the presidency. He has committed many blunders. In the distribution of public office he has favored his relatives and friends and it is generally believed that he has promoted a lack of discipline in the army. (*Deputy Gabino Bosny.*)—Our army is now composed of malcontents. Nevertheless, as the situation of the country does not admit of any other candidate, he will vote for Gen. Deodoro. On motion of Deputy Serzelelo the debate on the constitutional amendments was closed. The vote on the amendments reached the 20th specification of Art. 33. Thus far nearly all the amendments adopted in 2nd discussion have been retained. It was decided, however, to strike out the provision exempting mortgage banks from exclusive federal control, and also that which empowers congress to fix the number of deputies and regulate the manner of electing them. On the treaty with the United States, speeches were made by Senator Pinheiro Góes and Deputy Baron de Villa Viçosa. The latter favors the treaty, which he thinks will be very beneficial to the sugar industry of the country.

February 18.—The vote on the constitutional amendments was concluded, those adopted in 2nd discussion being in general retained. Among those stricken out were the provision for the collection of 15 per cent. additional duty and that giving the right of suffrage to students over 18 years of age. Deputies Antonio de Farias and Oliveira spoke against the treaty with the United States, and Deputy Maciano de Magalhães against the new schedule of military salaries. The latter deputy thinks that the growth of the republicanism institutions is now hampered by an anti-republican government.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—There have been some cases of yellow fever at Santos.

—Counterfeit 50\$ notes have made their appearance in Santos.

—There is an epidemic of cattle-stealing in Rio Grande do Sul.

—Col. Ferraz, governor of Ceará, died at Pernambuco on the 11th inst.

—The bathing establishment at Poços de Caldas has been sold for 900,000\$.

—There are no revenue stamps in Rio. How are the people there to sell shares?

—And now the counterfeit 50\$ notes have reached Campos. What place next?

—In the public schools of Minas Geraes 538 places of teachers are said to be vacant.

—The statue of *Thiadeus* is to be erected in S. Paulo with the product of 125 lotteries.

—A new daily paper, called the *Diário da Manhã*, is to be published in Juiz de Fora.

—The bishop of S. Paulo has protested against the demolition of the church of the episcopal palace.

—The *Pharol* of Juiz de Fora says that there have been 25 cases of beriberi among the students at Ouro Preto.

—On the 10th inst. a drunken man in Lorena, S. Paulo, killed three men and wounded four, two of them severely.

—In Santos the sum of 6,500\$ has been subscribed for the sufferers from the explosion on the steamer *Chickster*.

—In Santo Antonio da Cachoeira, São Paulo, two plantations bought nine months ago for 50,000\$ have recently been sold for 95,000\$.

—The hot weather and drought are injuring the crops very much in Bahia, and it is said that in some districts there is much suffering for want of water.

—In Empoado, Minas Geraes, a band of 8 men and women, after beating a man with tobacco till they were tired, applied gunpowder to him and set fire to it.

—In Juiz de Fora on the 15th inst. the religious services of the Baptists were disturbed by a mob. The police interceded and several persons were wounded in the conflict which ensued.

—It is denied that the governor of Maranhão is imitating Gen. Campos Salles and organizing his judiciary without waiting for the state constitution to be adopted.

—In the drouth-stricken region of Bahia the suffering of the people is horrible. In Caeté and Monte Alto it is said that more than 200 persons have died of hunger.

—A proposal has been made to the governor of S. Paulo to open a canal between S. Vicente and the capital of the state. It will probably be carried up the *serra* on wheels.

—The noted *chevalier d'industrie* who goes by the names of Dr. Francisco Antunes Maciel, Octavio de Souza Motta, Arthur da Rocha Maciel and A. O. Motta, has been arrested in Santos.

—A priest in Sergipe has convinced his parishioners that he is the prophet Elijah. The pope, he says, is a hydra and the archbishop of Bahia a dragon.

—A letter from Ceará says that half of the official candidates for the constituent congress of that state know how to read and write. This may be considered a fair average.

—A funny man in S. Paulo recently informs the thieves of that city that it is his next-door neighbor who is a capitalist, and that they are wasting their time in breaking into his house.

—The book-keeper who ran away with 30,000\$ belonging to the Melhoramentos company of S. Paulo, has been arrested. On his person was found the sum of 12,029\$ in money and jewels.

—In Campinas the new water-works have been delivered to the city government. The reservoir is 200 metres by 25 and, it is said, will hold water enough to furnish a daily supply for 250,000 people.

—*Ecce iterum*—Mococa. In this irrepressible little town a man 95 years old was, while sleeping, brutally murdered with an axe. His two daughters and two idiots living in the house were severely beaten by the murderers.

—The chief of police of the state of Rio de Janeiro telegraphs from Macaé that he has discovered the promoters of the political disturbances at that place. What a pity he didn't have charge of the *Tribuna* investigation!

—The increasing number of assassinations and crimes of violence in São Paulo has led the chief of police to arrest a large number of suspected individuals who are about the streets unemployed. Many of them were found to be armed.

—The judge who is investigating the question of the attempt to shoot the editor of the *Rio de Janeiro*, insists that Deputy Fróes da Cruz shall give evidence in the case. Deputy Fróes da Cruz had been twice cited, but failed to appear.

—In Santos there are 15 pairs of loving hearts sighing for the knot there's no untying; but, as there is no one there authorized to marry them, they are obliged to languish. Why not send the S. Paulo knot-maker down there for a day or two?

—At a meeting held in Ouro Preto, it was resolved to protest against the suspension of work on the extension of the Itabira railway, to declare that beriberi is not epidemic in that city, and to present to the generalissimo photographic views of the city.

—A prophetess has appeared in S. José do Araguaia, Goyaz. She claims to have come to regenerate the world, and is said to have quite a number of followers. She baptizes and celebrates marriage ceremonies—including her own to a paralytic whom she promises to cure.

—In Tucumã, Para, the *subdelegado* will the census bulletins to the people for 5\$ each, accepting funds in payment, when his customers had no money. In our opinion the *subdelegado* was guilty of very foul conduct; but why should the citizens *deano effluvia* wish to buy census bulletins?

—Ouro Preto is getting to be a very excitable place. It has a public meeting almost every day. The last was on the 20th in favor of the rights of the school of pharmacy, but we are somewhat puzzled as to the object, as the meeting was promoted by the mercantile class while the students took no part.

—On the roadside near Macaé was found some days ago, the dead body of Antonio Vieira, commonly known as Antonio Preguica (Lazy Antonio). Antonio Vieira, who was over a hundred years old, had taken part in the Minas revolution in 1842 and belonged to a family that was at one time very wealthy.

—Gen. Cesario's time for a little cheap glory has now arrived. To secure the perpetual remembrance of the ex-minister's illustrious deeds, the governor of Minas Geraes has loaned a city and called it Alvinópolis. Surely acting-general Arapepe will not be so cruel as to prevent the organization of a company for selling town lots.

—In S. Paulo 20,000\$ has been raised by subscription as a reward for the discovery of the murderer of Francisco de Souza Paulista who was killed on the night of the 15th. The body of the murdered man was found lying in his yard on the morning of the 16th, and it is supposed that he was killed on the previous night when entering his house. The murder has caused much excitement in S. Paulo.

—The new butcher-shop opened in Campinas on the 14th by the Companhia Pastorel e Carnes Verdes is handsomely furnished with costly mirrors and artistic carvings of cast-iron, imitating bronze, with marble tops. It is a real pleasure to eat a juicy beef steak bought there, and, what is perhaps better still, the competition caused by the opening of the new shop has forced the price of beef from 500 down to 320 rs. per kilo. Why can we not have such a shop in Rio?

—According to the report of the British Consul at Maranhão, the exports from that port during the fiscal year 1889-90 were as follows, in tons: cotton 3,672, sugar 607, hides 759, goat and deer skins 88, rubber 14, etc. The valuation of all the exports during the year is stated to have been 2,443,880. The imports during the same period were valued at 2,536,045, of which 1,372,131 were from Great Britain, 244,192 from the United States, 138,436 from France and 135,017 from Germany.

—The new city of Portellopolis—Heaven save the mark!—in the state of Rio de Janeiro is to be established somewhere in the Jurujuba district of Niteroi. The governor, or pro-consul, of the state, in whose honor the new city is to be built, will not give the builders an interest guarantee; he will let them import everything they want free of duty at the Rio de Janeiro state custom-houses, we presume.

—It is stated that in S. Paulo there are persons who have made fortunes by speculating in shares and yet find it difficult to borrow a few hundred milréis from their friends, although, before making their fortunes, they had a credit of from fifty to a hundred contos at the banks. This reminds us of a story we once heard. A traveller in a certain district in the United States met a badly dressed individual who, on being questioned in regard to the ownership of certain tracts of land, replied that their owner was no other than himself. Finally, however, another tract of land was pointed out to him and he was asked if he owned that too. "Look here, stranger," he replied, "you mustn't think I'm so darned poor as to own all the land in this neighborhood."

RAILROAD NOTES

—There were 6,080 miles of new railway tracks laid in the United States during the past year.

—The governor of S. Paulo has received a proposal for building a railway from Campinas to São Sebastião.

—The Cachambú street railway has been sold at auction for 300,000\$. Smith says it is cheap at half the money, but we doubt it.

—For the half year ending December 31st, the receipts of the Itabira railway were 64,818\$ 170 and the expenses 47,668\$ 543.

—The Oeste de Minas company has contracted with Messrs. Max Nothmann & Co., of this city, for 43,400 tons of Bessemer steel rails.

—The Paulista company signed a contract with the São Paulo state government (provisional) on the 18th for the construction of a railway from Limeira to Piracicaba.

—Considerable light was caused to the passengers of a Petropolis train on the 18th by the failure of the locomotive to work. There was a stoppage of the train for about five minutes.

—Sleeping cars are to be attached to the night trains of the S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line. The cars were constructed in the United States and put together in the workshops of the road.

—A popular meeting was held in Ouro Preto on the 18th inst., at which it was resolved to petition the general government to continue the extension of the Itabira branch of the Central railway.

COFFEE NOTES

—The speculation in coffee on the New York Coffee Exchange was much lighter last year than in 1889, the option sales aggregating 9,732,000 bags against 14,378,750 bags in 1889, and 20,998,000 bags in 1888. The highest price was 18½ cents in September, and the lowest 13.9 cents in December.

LOCAL NOTES

—Robberies are unusually numerous in this city at the present time.

—The reluctance displayed in receiving notes issued by certain banks is causing much inconvenience to the public.

—The decree re-organizing the joint-stock company laws was published on St. Valentine's day. A rough old valentine to some of the boys.

—The building of Messrs. Souza Fonseca & Co., opposite the Exchange, has been sold to Visconde de Leopoldina (Mr. Henry Lowndes) for 340,000\$.

—Acting-General Arapepe expressed much gratification at what he saw on his visit to the Mint a few days ago. Did he see the revenue and postage stamps?

—A conflict of jurisdiction appears to have arisen between the department of agriculture and of finance, as to which has the right of granting packet privileges to steamers.

—Aristides the Just doubts whether the new constitution will ever be executed. Aristides is just right on the subject. No constitution will ever be executed in Brazil as long as present ideas prevail.

—The price of ice went up to 450 reis a kilo—say to cents a pound—during the past week. Of course the imported article had been sold out and the much praised national industry took advantage of the situation.

—A most amusing thing is the finding by Barão de Lucena at the department of agriculture of such a quantity of unsigned decrees, which Gen. Glicério had, however, dispatched favorably. The baron says he infers that, as the decrees are not signed, the general did not mean to sign them, and therefore the concessions are refused. Perhaps poor Gen. Glicério had no time to sign all the decrees for the concessions he granted.

—A number of immigrants have taken up their residence in the street near the department of agriculture and stay there day and night. The poor fellows look like curstione brokers, but their profits are not so large.

—The Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills has been having trouble with its laborers. There were several small strikes during the past week, occasioning brief "shut downs." It is now feared that a general strike among the laborers will soon take place.

—Is it not a little singular that a dictatorial government should issue a decree in regard to the organization of the Senate, instead of leaving that body to organize itself? It looks very much as though the presidency proposes to run all the other departments.

—We were shown a letter a few days since which was addressed to an old and well-known house in an exceptionally legible hand, which had laid in the postoffice 10 days before delivery. The postoffice and custom-house are certainly not winning much credit.

—The Centro Operario, one of the labor organizations in this city, resolved at a meeting on the 19th to memorialize the government against the contract empowering a private company to require forcible registration of lands according to the Torrens system.

—As we are going to press, we hear that an encounter has taken place this morning at Cascadura between the police and a party of strikers. The police fired upon the latter, killing one man and wounding others. It is an ill-omened baptism for the new constitution.

—We regret to note the sudden death of Capt. John Watts, master of the Br. ship *Grace Harlow*, which occurred at Ponte de Aída on the evening of the 21st. We are informed that the cause of death was an apoplectic attack. He leaves a widow and one child, who were making the voyage with him.

—Good for O'Par! During the day you should perfume your house with lavender, rosemary in tin; and to scare away mosquitoes, powder or fluff should be burnt! But why not suggest that enough water be granted us to clean our faces after reading the questionable jokes the *Zur* is so fond of publishing?

—The municipal authorities having resolved upon the "embellishment" of Botafogo, we presume they will begin in the usual way by cutting down all the trees and then planting new ones. The ordinary municipal official appears to have a rabid hatred for every green tree, and will never feel happy until it is cut down. The work going on in the largo S. Francisco de Paula is an illustration.

—Every body in Rio seems to have been in a "strike" during the past week. The Associação Commercial, the bankers interested in stock exchange speculations and the brokers "struck" against the decree of the 14th; the stevedores "struck" for more pay; the "ice mill" struck consumers for double prices; the railway laborers struck against bad regulations and insufficient pay; and a strike of cartmen and drivers is rumored, etc. Yet no one strikes the real causes of this state of affairs—the company organizers!

—A fatal accident occurred on the Santa Theresia tram line at 11:30 on Friday night last. A descending tram was thrown from the track in the neighborhood of Rua Aurea, and went over a steep place. The driver and conductor and five passengers were all badly injured, one of them dying a few minutes after the accident. Three others are in a perilous state. It is charged that stones have been again and again placed on the track, and that this accident was due to that cause. The police should leave no effort untied to discover the truth of the statement, and to bring the blackguards to justice in case it is true.

—There was a meeting yesterday, at the offices of Messrs. Norton, Megaw & Co., between merchants, steamship agents, stevedores and representatives of the strikers in regard to the demands of the laborers. The latter demanded 5\$ and 6\$ per day, with no distinction between laborers, and with no fractional days. The discussion led to no result. The steamship agents finally authorized the employing stevedores to make the best terms possible in order to bring the strike to an end. Up to the hour of our going to press, no definite result is reported. The strikers appear to be in league with other labor organizations.

—A few intimate friends of Mr. and Mrs. William Slater, who are leaving Rio to fix their residence in Buenos Aires, made them a present of a valuable diamond ring and diamond brooch on the 20th, on the Royal Mail steamer *Trent*, as a slight memento of the appreciation of their friends in Rio. The presentation was made by Mr. W. H. Ashbrook, who took occasion to express the cordial good wishes of their Rio friends for the prosperity and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Slater in their new home. We hear that the employees of the Western and Brazilian Co. here also made a handsome present to Mr. Slater, who retires from the position of general manager of the cable service along this coast, to accept a more important position as resident director and representative of the various companies centring at Buenos Aires. Mr. Slater's long and successful administration of the W. & B. cable service along the coast has won for him so many friends, that a general wish has been expressed for a testimonial which will enable all the commercial houses of Rio to take part in it.

Capital	Capital paid up	Reserve fund	Companies	Dividend paid	Nonvoting stock	Last sale	Closing quotations
4,000,000	4,000,000	—	Agre. Cal. euz. de Vassouma Cal.	—	700 3/4	1083 000	—
700,000	700,000	—	Agre. Cal. euz. de Vassouma Cal.	—	700 3/4	202 000	—
708,000	708,000	10,000 1/2	Carnegie Financie...	—	—	818 000	—
300,000	300,000	—	Comercio e Industria ...	—	750	200 000	—
300,000	300,000	—	Comercio e Industria ...	—	750	200 000	—
3,000,000	1,200,000	—	Elevador e Fabr. de Chumbo	4 1/2—July 90	60	203 000	—
—	—	—	do 2 series...	—	40	—	—
10,000,000	4,000,000	—	Empreza de Obras Publicas	10 1/2—Jan. 91	40	410 000	—
—	—	—	do 2 series...	—	40	—	—
12,500,000	4,500,000	—	Incasadora de Cafe...	10 1/2—Jan. 91	40	39 000	—
20,000,000	4,000,000	—	Esportes Fluminense ...	—	40	50 000	—
40,000,000	—	—	Ind. e Colonizadora do Brazil	—	60	—	51 000—55 000
—	1,000,000	—	Ind. e V. de Fiebre e Menabé	—	100	180 000	—
720,000	220,000	270,000	Industrial Fluminense (Kowles)	—Jan. 91	50	50 000	—
5,000,000	5,000,000	—	Melhoramentos no Brazil...	6 000—Jan. 91	200	610 000	—
10,000,000	3,200,000	—	do do Rio...	100—Jan. 91	80	60 000	610 000—620 000
15,000,000	3,000,000	—	do do S. Paulo	—	80	68 000	—
1,000,000	1,700,000	—	Nacional Oleos...	5 000—Jan. 91	—	130 000	—
750,000	750,000	—	Nova Era Rural...	10 1/2—Jan. 91	70	50 000	—
1,000,000	600,000	—	Pavoni Mier...	6 000—Aug. 90	180	92 000	—
4,000,000	470,000	—	Phosphate of Cal...	—	120	55 000	—
2,000,000	450,000	—	Saneamento do Rio...	12 1/2—Jan. 91	41	48 000	48 000—52 000
1,225,000	1,225,000	—	Servicos Maritimos...	8 000—Jan. 91	100	100 000	—
4,000,000	1,200,000	40,500	S. Jetyonny mine...	—	100	157 000	—
—	700,000	—	do 2 series...	—	20	41 000	41 300—41 000
300,000	300,000	—	Torrens Brazilian...	3 000—Jan. 91	80	85 000	80 000—85 000
300,000	300,000	—	União...	—Jan. 91	20	—	—

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Share Capital R\$. 10,000,000\$
Debentures..... £ 675,000 stg.

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Hosiery, coffee bags and jute goods of all descriptions.

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